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Executive Registry

75-11,308

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

OSD Declassification/Release Instructions on File

9 SEP 1975

Honorable William E. Colby
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

DDI-2361-75

Dear Bill:

(U) The activities of the Soviet Union relating to the Middle East are, of course, a major ingredient in developments in that area of high interest to policy-level consumers of the national intelligence product.

(S) There is not now a periodic national intelligence publication which focuses on Soviet activities in the Middle East. Several different publications, such as the current intelligence bulletins, FBIS reports, intelligence reports on Communist aid to LDCs, etc., provide occasional or frequent snapshots of different aspects of Soviet activities in the Middle East, but there is not one periodic (for example, quarterly, monthly or more often) publication which draws together the various elements of relevant Soviet activities into an overall picture and keeps track of trends that reflect change and/or continuity.

(S) Providing the policy-level consumer with a periodic review of Soviet activities in the Middle East, against a baseline that is available in some cases (such as approximate number of military personnel in 1974 from an Arab country receiving training in the USSR, or level of military aid supplied in previous reporting period or calendar year), would be very valuable and I urge that it be established.

(S) At the outset, such a report should be available monthly and be short enough to be realistically of utility to senior policy makers. The monthly report would be focused on basic factual aspects such as number of Soviet military advisors, weapons delivered, etc. After a baseline was established, the monthly report for some activities might simply indicate no change. Every ninety days a more detailed portrayal of the relevant facts and more descriptive analysis of overall Soviet posture in the area should be provided. Both the frequency and content of the report would be subject to change through interaction with the consumers. The report would not be a substitute for the flow of existing publications. Because it would present an overall picture drawn from materials now presented in several different publications, it would hopefully be possible to minimize the manpower implications of such a new product.

Classified by _____ SecDef
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 1983

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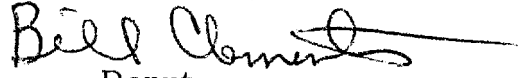
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(U) I have attached an outline of the subjects that I believe such a periodical update should address.

Sincerely,


Deputy

Enclosure
a/s

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OUTLINE OF
PROPOSED PERIODIC NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATION
ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE MIDDLE EAST

2 p. summary/highlight

The periodic report focused on Soviet activities relating to the Middle East* should provide coverage of subjects such as the following:

Military Aid Programs

10-12 categories

constant # - rule -

begin 4/72

CIA produce
DIA would

- Numbers, types and estimated value of military equipment committed and delivered by airlift and ships within the reporting period (e.g., April-June, 1975) compared to previous baseline period(s) (e.g., previous quarter of CY 1975, and CY 1974). Significant changes in types, missions, and quality of weapons supplied (such as longer range missiles, more advanced aircraft, improved tanks, SAMs, etc.). Changes in supply and spare parts levels, and support to build-up of in-country military production facilities.

kept

no info on 1/4
regular

Start 4/72

- Purpose and scale (number of Arab military personnel involved) of military training provided in the USSR and in Arab countries.

monthly baseline statement & type on # in USSR & high level by Arab countries & purpose

has worked on for
NIE 35-76
? on inclusion
see how much
info avail for
East.

- Number, composition, and assignment level (e.g., to battalion level) of Soviet military advisors serving with combat units, and other military technicians and specialists residing in Arab countries such as Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and Libya.

baseline statement to note No. Names & Countries, etc.

Posture of Support for Arab Countries

- Appraisal of degree of Soviet restraint in responses to requests by Arab nations for arms.
- Appraisal of degree to which Soviets support maximum demands for territorial solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and military action against Israel.
- Frequency and degree of Soviet support voiced for use by Arabs of oil supply and prices against the West.

no routine update

Soviet Assessments (expressed by Brezhnev, Kosygin, Pravda, Radio Moscow, etc.) of and comments about:

Private

- The military balance between Israel and the Arab states

OCI
narrative

*Middle East in this context should be taken to encompass not only Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, but also Iran, other Persian Gulf states, Libya and Somalia.

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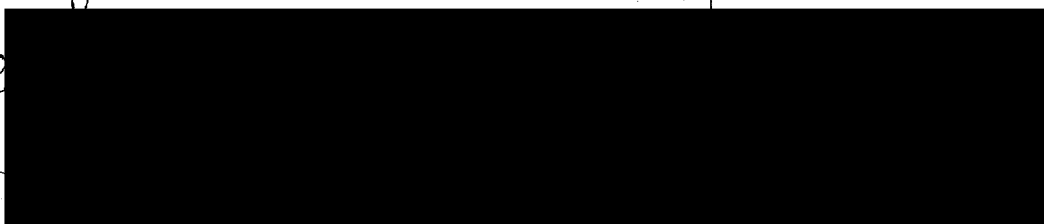
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- Israeli diplomatic situation (e.g., assessment of growing isolation from US, made in 1973)
- Israeli military capabilities, activities, and intentions
- Likelihood of Arab-Israeli war or armed clashes
- US role, policy and capability to act in the Middle East (e.g., frequency and degree of impugning US motives, view expressed in 1973 that the US was increasingly constrained by energy supply concerns).

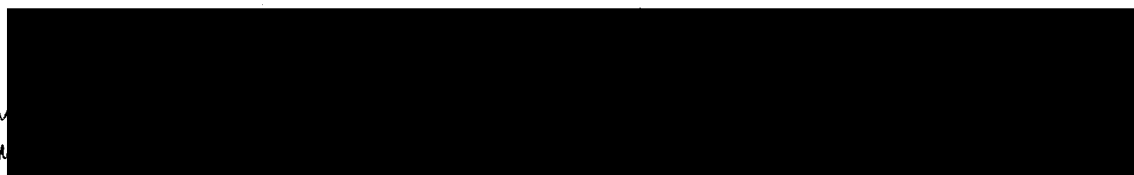
Level, Pattern and Trend of Soviet Military Usage of Facilities (such as ports and airfields) available to them in Arab countries such as Egypt, Libya, and Somalia. Activities and trends in the reporting period, compared to baseline period, such as:

- Number of Soviet aircraft (such as naval reconnaissance) stationed in Arab countries



- (Number and duration of ship port visits)

- General position and pattern of movement of ships
- Changes in access rights granted to the Soviets



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